

FLD 231

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Construction of Vietmannsdorf Airfield

DATE DISTR. 2 November 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. General

Work on this airfield has been speeded up by the Soviet authorities, and the target date set for completion and turn-over of the field to the SAF is 1 October 1953. The concreting of the runway should be completed by 25 August, after which date the runway itself should be fully serviceable. Work on the perimeter track has been held up due to a shortage of cement.

Since 8 August three senior SAF officers have made several visits to the project.

2. Runway Details

a. [redacted] three further strips of concrete had been laid along the entire runway, bringing the total up ten strips, each 7.4 meters wide.

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b. The eleventh and final strip is still in the process of being laid, and the anticipated completion date is 25 August. This strip is exactly six meters in width.

c. The runway dimensions have been positively ascertained to be as follows:

Each of the first ten runway strips consists of exactly 500 concrete sections, each 7.4 meters in width and 7.0 meters in length.

An eleventh runway strip is being laid in sections, each 6.0 in width and 7.0 meters in length.

The dimensions of the completed runway are therefore as follows:

Length (7 x 500 meters)	3,500 meters
Width (10 x 7.4 meters)	80 meters
Thickness	exactly 40 centimeters

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- 2 -

- d. There is a dirt runway extension, approximately 150 meters in length, situated at the western end of the runway, and another, approximately 500 meters in length, at the eastern end.
- e. The concrete has been laid on a base of processed paper, which in turn has been laid directly on the tightly packed sandy sub-soil. No metal reinforcing rods have been placed into the 40-centimeter concrete.

3. New Construction

a. Perimeter Track:

The entire perimeter track, situated 500 meters south of and parallel to the main runway, has now been prepared for concreting. The woods have been cleared and leveled to a width of 120 meters, and a center section of about 20 meters in width is being laid down. To-date three strips, each composed of sections measuring 7 x 6 x .40 meters, are being laid, and work has progressed to a length of approximately 500 meters.

Four taxi strips have been prepared, two connecting the perimeter track to each end of the runway, and each of the remaining two leading off from a point 1000 meters from either end of the runway and forming a right angle to both the runway and the perimeter track.

b. Parking Areas:

A series of clearings are being cut in the woods adjoining the southern side of the new perimeter track. To date six such areas, each 35 meters in width and 18 meters in depth, have been cleared and leveled.

c. Fuel Installation:

To date there has been little visible progress on the site of the proposed fuel installation in the south-west corner of the airfield. No fuel tanks or pipes have as yet arrived at the airfield.

- d. Between 10 and 18 August, there has been extensive surveying near the western end of the main runway.

4. Airfield Barracks:

- a. Six brick-built three-story barracks, each measuring 15 meters x 30 meters at the base, have now been completed, decorated and furnished for occupation. At present, apart from one building which is being utilized as the administration center, the only occupants are 50 Soviet enlisted men wearing black shoulderboards with red piping, apparently engaged solely in guarding the airfield.

- b. Work has started on the foundations of additional billeting facilities, to be situated at the nearby village of Kurtschlag.

5. Personnel:

In order to speed up progress on the airfield, a further 200 German workers have been hired. To date there are 3,200 German laborers employed at the site.

6. Miscellaneous:

All work on the runway and on the perimeter track ceased between 7 and 10 August, owing to an acute shortage of cement. The supply situation is still very precarious, and there is never more than one hour's supply on hand.

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- 3 -

- b. Since 8 August, a car carrying three senior SAF officers has been observed at various sites of the project.

the officers were from the nearby airfield of
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